

# Catholic Schools Needed Today

Defeatism and imprudence mark the outcries of critics of the Catholic schools, Monsignor William M. Roche, diocesan superintendent of schools, told a gathering of New Jersey educators last week.

"The American people cannot afford the tragedy of the passing of an educational resource as important as the Catholic schools," he said.

But at the very time, when these schools are most needed, he declared, fearful Catholics are debating over whether or not they should be continued.

Msgr. Roche spoke at the annual spring symposium sponsored by the Bergen County Catholic Education Association at Holy Angels Academy in Demarest, N.J.

"The American people cannot afford the tragedy of the passing of an educational resource as important as that of the Catholic school," a Catholic educator declared in Demarest, N.J.

But at a time when those schools are most needed, Catholics are engaged in a debate over whether or not they should be continued, according to Msgr. William M. Roche.

Msgr. Roche, Rochester diocesan superintendent of schools, spoke at the annual spring symposium sponsored by the Bergen County Catholic Education Association at Holy Angels Academy here.

"It would be imprudent in the extreme to allow Catholic and other non-public schools to be forced out of existence," he said.

As for the debate over Catholic schools, Msgr. Roche said the chief trouble is that those who oppose them "begin the debate with the words, 'Since we can no longer afford Catholic schools,' as if this was already a proven fact."

What is needed, Msgr. Roche said, is reorganization and change within the Catholic school system.

"As society changes, so must parish and pastoral outlook," he said. "Those who devote themselves to the preservation of existing institu-



MSGR. ROCHE

tions which were formed in years past for different purposes are doomed to failure.

"Instead, we must direct the change to give current meaning to changing institutions," he added.

"Before we allow Catholic schools to die by default we must allow a positive program to institute changes in their means of support." He offered a six-point program for such changes.

— Establish a diocesan school system under central administration.

— Create diocesan, regional and parish school boards.

— Clearly define relations and responsibilities among pastors, parents and school superintendents.

— Centralize services such as recruitment of teachers and planning at the diocesan level.

— Develop more effective relationships to other educational, governmental and community organizations.

— Develop financial policies more consistent with a diocesan system.

"If these steps are taken," Msgr. Roche said, "I believe that evidence will mount that we can afford Catholic schools."

# Weather Too Cold Here To Lure Cuba Refugees

Blame it on the weather: Rochester has few Cuban settlers.

And it takes a substantial Cuban community to attract refugees.

This area gets about five post-revolution immigrants a year through the Catholic Family Center, according to George Montgomery, executive director. They join relatives who emigrated years ago; before the Castro revolution, he said.

The local statistics were brought to light in relation to a news service report from Washington, that the United States Catholic Conference had resettled its 112,000th Cuban refugee.

Government figures show that New York State leads, after Florida, in the number of refugees accommodated — 47,343. Next comes New Jersey, with 28,200.

These people probably are concentrated in the New York Metropolitan area, where they would find a

large, established Cuban population, Montgomery said.

The lack of such a community here may be attributed to the rigors of Lake Ontario weather, he suggested. His agency has found, he added, that the work background of people raised in a semi-tropical climate usually has not produced the skills needed in local industry. Some of the Cubans who do work here have been sent to Miami as recruiters, but little has come of it, he said.

The government report said that about 370,000 Cubans had applied for refuge in the U.S. during the last seven years. They have been settled in all 50 of the states, and also, through U.S. agencies, in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and 26 other countries.

The agencies include the United Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, and the Protestant organization, Church World Services.

# Downtown Apostolate Established

Rochester's business men were invited this week to share a religious program of attending Mass once a week hoping "to bring the Spirit of Christ into the working world."

Titled "CIBUS" for "Christians in Business," the group was formed by downtown professional and business men and priests of Old St. Mary's Church. Program pledge cards, distributed at Sunday and daily Masses at the church, ask each member to promise informally to go to one daily Mass a week for six months and to attempt to persuade four other business associates either men or women to do the same.

Monsignor James C. McNiff, pastor of Old St. Mary's, Father Charles Bennett, assistant pastor, joined Harold S. Hacker (Public Library), Anthony J. Costello (Courier-Journal), William O'Toole (Xerox Corp.), Bernard E. Coniff (Travellers' Insurance Co.) and Edward E. Esse (N.Y. State Placement) in formulating the CIBUS program.

Termed a "personal contact apostolate" aiming at developing "an awareness of what it means to live the spirit of Christ in one's area of work," the new group will have no dues, meetings or officers. There is no conflict with the popular Daily Mass League for CIBUS asks Mass attendance only once in each business week in any church.

The organizers envision that other forms of religious service for the professional and business world may develop. Pledge cards may be obtained by calling St. Mary's Church.

# 3 Speakers Named for CCD Meeting

Rochester delegates will hear three internationally known experts in catechetics and consultants at the ninth annual Fraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) Workshop at the Catholic University of America, June 17-28.

Leading a staff of 12 priests, nuns and lay experts will be Bishop G. Emmett Carter of London, Ont., Father Alfonso M. Nebreda of Sophia University, Tokyo, director of the East Asian Pastoral Institute; and Father Frans J. Van De Peel, S.J., of the Higher Institute of Catechetics, Nijmegen, Holland.

Announcement of the institute was made by Father Joseph B. Collins, S.S., administrative assistant at the CCD National Center, and Father John S. Russell of Syracuse, chairman of the National Conference of Diocesan Directors of CCD.

It is the first workshop to be co-sponsored by the national center and the diocesan directors.

Registration in the workshop—on CCD Leadership Training in the Changing Church—will be open only to top administrative and supervisory personnel on both diocesan and parish levels, according to Father Collins.

"It has long been felt that the people who run the Confraternity throughout the country should get together to share experiences and gain new insights and practical know-how. This has been made all the more imperative in the light of new developments in the behavioral sciences and in the Church," he stated.

"It is an indication of the maturity of CCD throughout the country that it can provide a graduate program for its experienced personnel," Father Collins added.

# Orthodox Jewry Claims 'New Awareness'

New York—(RNS)—A world conference of Jewish Orthodox synagogues in Jerusalem last January brought to Orthodox Judaism a "new awareness" of its role in the contemporary world and a "capacity to shape the pattern of Jewish life," according to a report of the six-day meeting issued here. Attendance by nearly 2,000 delegates from 26 countries in six continents, was "a potent demonstration of the strength and solidarity of the Orthodox synagogue."



**DUTY IN PERU**—Sister Georgianna is the only nun-instructor at a Marianist teacher training college in Chimbote, Peru. She is now in her home state where she is completing studies for a master's degree in education at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Sister Georgianna, a Dominican, aids in teaching 450 prospective teachers for South America studying at the Chimbote college.

# Toronto Meet On School Aid Deadlocked

Toronto, Ont.—(RNS)—A two-hour conference involving Catholic and Protestant churchmen ended in a stalemate over the Catholic campaign for tax funds to support the top three grades of the Church's secondary schools.

Catholic leaders said they intend to forge ahead with their campaign and the Protestants said they will continue to oppose it.

(Under Canada's 1867 Constitution, the British North America Act, Ontario Catholics are guaranteed their own "separate" schools through elementary school grades (1 through 8) with some tax support extending into the first two grades of high school.

However, for Grades 11, 12 and 13, there is no tax support and Catholic parents who wish their children to have a completely Catholic education must pay \$200 or more a year in tuition over and above their school taxes to support the schools involved.)



# Basketball Awards

A sportsmanship trophy is accepted by Kevin Hoey, right, on behalf of the eighth grade team from St. Mary's parish, that he captained in the Auburn CYO basketball league. From the left are Fred Ferguson and Auburn CYO president Chuck Mace. Dick Balash of the SS. Peter and Paul eighth grade team, voted most valuable player in the league, received the new Alfred G. Crowley Memorial trophy.

# Truthfulness the Key -- Father Kueng

A celebrated theologian from Germany, Father Hans Kueng, was in Rochester this week expressing his unorthodox views in formal addresses and informal campus sessions.

"Sincerity" and "truthfulness" are the key words in the fresh approach he urges to the problems of church and world.

Father Kueng, who teaches theology and directs the Institute for Ecumenical Research at the University of Tuebingen, is a guest professor this year at Union Theological Seminary in New York.

He was invited here by Colgate Rochester Divinity School, the religious studies committee in the University of Rochester Arts College, and the college chaplains' department.

With an openness for which he became world famous before and during the second Vatican Council, Father Kueng answered some hard questions in a local interview. According to the

Times-Union, he called for the election of the next Pope through a system that would express the choice of "all the people."

"The next election will be extremely decisive for the future of the church," his remark was quoted. "We must get the best man for the job from whatever nation."

He suggested a lay council to parallel the Bishops' Senate the two to replace the "medieval" College of Cardinals as an electoral body.

He said that European churchmen were paying attention to Bishop Sheen's innovations here—his encouragement of laity and clergy to participate more fully in diocesan affairs.

In the interview, Father Kueng spoke, as he has elsewhere, of ecumenism, celibacy, the church's approach to the social problems.

He said that Catholics should be allowed more freedom of worship with others; that baptisms in other branches of the faith should be "unconditionally" acknowledged; that seminarians should not be trained denominationally.

On celibacy, he suggested as a practical matter a return to the practice of an earlier day, when priests were celibate or married—according to their particular vocation.

In its approach to race problems and poverty the church should resist, he told the interviewer, "a tendency to institutionalize."

As Father Kueng sees it, the contemporary church often faces obstacles thrown in its way four centuries ago. He speaks of a "siege mentality" developed to parry attacks from without and within. It must be dispelled, and is being changed, he says, by genuine sincerity and candor.

# PAT ANSWERS

Do you have questions about parish-life, customs and traditions which bug you? The famous HELP! column doesn't know everything. Try PAT ANSWERS! ... But don't ask PAT about faith or morals. Simply write in your concerns and hang-ups about living in the family of God ... Address: PAT ANSWERS, 35 Scio Street, Rochester 14604. PAT's answers will not necessarily reflect the opinion or policy of the Editor, or of the Diocese.

Q.—Priests are always welcome at our house and we're lucky to have a pastor who does make house calls. But I would appreciate advance notice—even a few minutes—to tidy up a room, or myself too. Could you drop a hint in your column, please?  
—B.K., Rochester

A.—Consider it dropped! One pastor we know published in his Sunday Bulletin the streets where he would be visiting that week. Rather thoughtful—and he found he was more welcome.

Q.—Why can't all those worthy mission causes be combined? The mail brings such pitiful appeals, but you can't begin to help all of them. Any suggestions?  
—R.L.N., Brockport

A.—Msgr. John Duffy, of our Propagation of the Faith Office, 50 Chestnut Street, can explain this so well that we pass this to him. Actually, you simply have to budget your mission giving. Contribute to what you can within your means for this month and throw the rest of the letters away. Or support several needy causes all this year and shift to several others next year.

Q.—Do you care to comment on those religious articles which car owners put on their dashboards?  
—E.L. MC M., Geneva

A.—We do not like to judge motives, and tastes are as various as people. Good taste in the display of one's devotion—whether on a dashboard, a lawn or in a home—promotes good will. But many who consider it bad taste to have the Blessed Mother image riding in a car think it does disservice to religion.

Q.—Some of the young priests are now wearing those very long, plain surplices we used to associate with Protestant clergymen. Are these re-

quired since Vatican II, or just a matter of personal taste?  
—J.K., Geneva

A.—No to the first question; Yes to the second. It's not an ecumenical gesture.

Q.—What's the meaning of people striking their breast when the bell rings at Mass? My missal doesn't mention that.  
—J.L., Rochester

A.—Actually the bells at Mass are signals calling attention to the important moments of the liturgy. Striking the breast has always been a sign of humility. We suspect the bell-ringing once used at the "Lord, I am not worthy ..." at Communion time brought on the first "breastbeating" and it became associated with the very sound of the bell.

Q.—It used to be proper to receive the Host silently and with the eyes closed. What's the approved way now?  
—J.J.T., Medina

A.—When the priest holds the Sacred Host before the communicant and says "The Body of Christ," the receiver should look directly at the Host, say "Amen" (which means: "Yes, it is the Body of Our Lord; I believe it.") and then open the mouth to receive. The response "Amen" is an act of faith to be made after seeing the Host.

Q.—How do you tell a saintly and well-meaning parish priest that his sermons are dull. It's not just my opinion—the whole parish complains.  
—Long-suffering, Rochester

A.—Find the most diplomatic parishioner acceptable to the pastor and let him tie the bell. Or try writing a letter with a few lines of praise for his efforts and the some positive and useful hints about topics or styles you think he might try out. (P.S.—It would be an acid test of sanctity: the ability to accept criticism.)

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